(US$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports
2000-01	44560	50536
2001-02	43827	51413
2002-03	52719	61412

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

(c) The value of import and export of petroleum products in dollar terms during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is as under:

(US$ Million)

Year	Petroleum Products Exports	Petroleum Imports
2000-01	1892.43	15650.09
2001-02	2119.14	14000.25
2002-03	2421.40	17639.52

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

Import of life saving medicines

1235. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have struck a deal with WTO allowing India to import life saving medicines to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and other epidemics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the duty structure on these life saving drugs has been decided; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The

Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health recognized that the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent Members from taking members to protect public health. It reaffirmed the right of WTO Members to use, to the full, the provisions in the TRIPS Agreement which provide flexibility for this purpose. The Declaration recognized that these facilities include the right of each Member to grant compulsory license and the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such license is granted, the right to determine what constitutes a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency and the freedom to establish its own regime for exhaustion of intellectual property rights.

Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration recognized difficulties of WTO Members with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector in making effective use of compulsory licensing under the TRIPS Agreement and instructed the Council for TRIPS to find an expeditious solutions to this problem.

The General Council of the WTO took a Decision on 30 August 2003 for implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. The Decision allows manufacture and export of patented pharamaceutical products under a compulsory licence to countries with limited or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector. This decision would enable countries with limited or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector to import pharmaceutical products at affordable prices.

(c) and (d) Customs duty on 126 life saving drugs/medicines was made zero vide Notification number 21/2002-Customs dated 1.3.2002.

Export growth

1236. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export growth during the first half of the current financial year has not been satisfactory as it came down to 10 per cent from 20 per cent during the same period last year; and